Contracts for plastic glasses

†588. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to serve drinking items like tea and coffee, etc. to train passengers in "Kulhars" instead of plastic cups being used till now;

(b) whether it is also a fact that contracts had been given for plastic glasses etc.; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the said contracts will be carried out for the stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail accidents

589. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of rail accidents/derailments, dacoity and loot of passengers in running trains occurred during the last six months in various parts of the country;

(b) the details of each such incident and the reasons for such high incidence of railway accidents and crime and the steps taken to address these problems;

(c) the loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(d) whether an enquiry has been ordered into each of these incidents; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereof and the steps proposed to be taken as long term measures to ensure safety and security of the passengers on the Indian Railways?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) There have been 132* consequential train accidents on Indian Railways during the period 1.1.2004 to 30.6.2004 which includes 77 derailments. These 132* consequential train accidents have resulted in 109* deaths and 352* injuries. (*Figures are provisional)

These accidents have resulted in a direct damage to Railway property of approx. Rs. 31.38 crore*. Consequential train accidents are inquired into by the departmental committees of Railway officers or by the Commissioners of Railway Safety or by a specially constituted Judicial Commission. Of the 132* consequential train accidents since 1.1.2004 in 12 cases Commissioners of Railway Safety have conducted the statutory inquiries and the rest by departmental committees.

The prima facie cause-wise details of 132* consequential train accidents since 1.1.2004 to 30.6.2004 are as under:—

Railway Staff	69
Other than Railway Staff	40
Sabotage	8
Incidental	11
Equipment failure	3
Under investigation	1
TOTAL	132*

(*Provisional figures)

Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and continuous initiatives are undertaken to prevent accidents. Safety measures include adoption of suitable and modern technology for interlocking and signalling systems, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of overaged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions, and provision of Anti-collision Device.

As regards incidents of dacoity and loot of passengers, it is stated that the maintenance of law and order and the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The

cases of crime on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Measures for railway safety

590. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken strong measures for railway safety;

(b) if so, what are main safety measures recently announced;

(c) whether even after announcing safety measures the number of rail accidents have increased;

(d) if so, what are main reasons for these accidents and the total number of accidents after announcing the safety measures; and

(e) to what extent measures have helped in improving railway safety in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and adoption of new measures to improve safety is a continuous process. The measures being taken by Indian Railways to improve safety include adoption of suitable and modern technology for interlocking and signalling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of overaged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks and observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device. Indian Railways have also formulated a Corporate Safety Plan for the period 2003-2013, which has already been presented to the Parliament.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) As a result of the measures taken by Indian Railways to improve safety, the number of consequential train accidents have steadily come down from 2131 in 1960-61 to 351 during 2002-03. During